

A Natural History of the British Lepidoptera. A text-book* for students and collectors. By J. W. TUTT, F.E.S. Vol. VIII. London: Berlin: 1906.

This volume appears out of its regular order, preceding volumes V and VI, as the matter composing it was found ready. It has been appearing in parts under the title "A Natural History of the British Butterflies." The work extends to 479 pages, and is extremely full and extended, treating of only ten species of British butterflies, although including a considerable amount of general discussion. The method of nomination of types is followed in determining the types of genera, a fresh study having been made by the author, with results differing from previous determinations, as would be expected. A great many divisions are proposed for the butterflies. For example, the Skippers are given superfamily rank, under the name *Urbicolides*; the three subfamilies of Watson are said to be "evidently of full family value," and are accordingly divided into subfamilies and tribes. We think this is an exaggeration of the importance of the characters of these butterflies, caused by concentrated study of too slender material. The characters given to define the so-called families are clearly of subordinate value and are really scarcely sufficient to indicate subfamilies. We are sorry that the author did not attempt a new classification without the use of secondary sexual characters. Some of the genera are too close and should be united. This multiplicity of genera is comparatively harmless in a work treating of so few species, but if it were to be applied to the world species, it would be found impracticable. But in general we have little fault to find with the book, and much to commend. It will be many years before such a work on American Lepidoptera will be possible.

Field Tables to Lepidoptera. By WILLIAM T. M. FORBES. Worcester, Mass., 1906.

This pamphlet contains: (1) A key to the caterpillars of the Eastern United States, the only general work on American caterpillars published. It separates them by artificial characters and prominent structural differences; (2) field tables of butterflies, sphinxes, saturnians, etc., giving common as well as scientific names, brief description, size, frequency in New England, seasons, haunts, and other items of interest; (3) an artificial key to the butterflies of New England, more complete than others. Much of it has been tested by the